For improving Long rage forecasting of monsoon rainfall, India Meteorological Department has been making critical review of its predictions regularly, especially after the failure in 2002 and 2004. IMD has taken the following major steps to improve its monsoon prediction capability.

- Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore is collaborating with IMD and helping to implement a dynamical prediction system using the mathematical model developed at the Experimental Climate Prediction Centre, scripps Institute of Oceanography, USA. This model has shown reasonable skill in predicting monsoon rainfall over India. Using this model, experimental forecasts were prepared for the 2005 southwest monsoon rainfall. However, more quality tests and research work are required before the model can be put to use for operation of work.
- As statistical models outperform dynamical models at present, IMD has developed many new statistical models with the aim to replace existing operational statistical models. These new statistical models have shown improved skill but have to be tested for a couple of years more before their use in operational mode.

(e) Doesn't arise.

Conversion of four-lane highways into six-lane highways in Rajasthan

1115. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria being used to determine the four-lane highways that would be selected for six-lane conversion;

(b) whether on the basis of the criteria, NHAI intends to make some four-lane highways into six-lane highways in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame therefor;

(d) whether there are any proposals from the Government of Rajasthan, pending under consideration with the Central Government at present; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Traffic level on the section should be 25,000 PCUs or more for the section to be considered for six laning.

(b) and (c) Proposal for six laning of National Highways is at preliminary stage and as such it is too early to indicate the names of the sections as well as the time-frame.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Development of National Highways in Meghalaya

†1116. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Planning has approved the scheme for widening of National Highway Nos. 40E, 44E, 51 and 62 passing through Meghalaya;

(b) if so, whether any amount has been allocated for construction of these Highways during the current financial year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The Government have approved on 22.09.2005 the preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) only for 83 km long stretch of NH 44 (Shillong—Nongstoin section) and 96 km long stretch of NH 62 in the State of Meghalaya for widening to two lanes under Phase 'B' of Special Accelerated Road Development Programme in North Eastern Region (SARDP-NE).

(b) to (d) Since the approval is only for preparation of DPRs, the question of allocation of funds for construction of these Highways does not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.